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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7090
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SENSITIVE
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SUBJECT: USAU MEETING WITH SOUTH SUDAN'S REPRESENTATIVE IN
ETHIOPIA

THIS MESSAGE IS FROM USAU AMBASSADOR BATTLE.

¶1. (SBU) On December 8 USAU Ambassador Battle and the U.S. Charge to Ethiopia Mushingi attended a lunch hosted by the French Ambassador to the African Union and Ethiopia, Ambassador Jean-Christophe Belliard, and attended by Ambassadors from the AU Partner Nations and the Sudan Head of Mission for the Government of Southern Sudan in Addis Ababa, Arop Deng Kuol.

¶2. (SBU) The intent of the meeting was to receive a report from Kuol on the situation in Sudan in light of the demonstrations held in Sudan on December 7, and the arrest of Members of the Parliament (MP) and their subsequent release.

¶3. (SBU) Kuol stated that another demonstration is planned for December 10, that will be supported by all political parties to express the rights of the people to peacefully demonstrate and to show displeasure with the unconstitutional arrest of MPs. Other key points made by Kuol included:

-- dismay that the Government arrested MPs and that the arrests had been ordered by the Attorney General;

-- dismay that it took two hours of conversation to convince President Omar El-Bashir to release the arrested MPs;

-- dismay that a MP was assaulted during his arrest;

-- that there is a limited time for the current Parliament to enact legislation that will enable a constitutional democratic transformation. The deadline for enactment of legislation is December 31, 2009 otherwise all subsequent action would be unconstitutional;

-- desire to repel the Laws on National Security as a precondition for elections;

-- insistence that partner nations trust Sudan with its own future to include the right for the South to break from the North.

¶4. (SBU) It is important to note that Kuol supports the African Union's participation in the implementation of the CPA as long as the AU works in concert with IGAD.

¶5. (SBU) Kuol expressed that Ethiopia is the only African nation with a vested interest in the success of both the North and the South of Sudan and therefore has the confidence of both the North and the South.

¶6. (SBU) Ambassador Belliard, who has served in Khartoum, repeatedly stated that in the French perspective, Sudan is

the most pressing issue on the continent of Africa. He feared an implosion. Kuol agreed that Sudan was the most pressing issue on the Continent but he did not share the fear of an implosion. The general consensus of the meeting was that the elections will take place in 2010 and that the South will break away after the referendum in 2011.

Eritrea Sanctions

¶7. (SBU) The issue of U N sanctions on Eritrea was raised by USAU Ambassador and the French Ambassador brushed off all references to Eritrea by throwing both hands in the air.

MUSHINGI